UNITED NATIONS

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Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Bridgetown, Barbados
25 April-6 May 1994

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A/CONF.167/1
31 March 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the Conference.

2. Election of the President.

3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.

4. Adoption of the agenda.

5. Election of officers other than the President.

6. Organization of work, including establishment of the Main Committee of the Conference.

7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:

   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;

   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.

8. General debate.

9. Consideration of plans and programmes to support the sustainable development of small island developing States and the utilization of their marine and coastal resources, which includes meeting essential human needs, maintaining biodiversity, and improving the quality of life for island people, as well as measures that will enable small island developing States to cope effectively, creatively and in a sustainable manner with environmental changes and to mitigate the impacts on and reduce the threats posed to marine and coastal resources:

   (a) Consideration of proposals for a Barbados declaration;

(b) Consideration of the draft programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States.

10. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

Annotations

1. Opening of the Conference

The Conference will be convened at the Sherbourne Centre, Bridgetown, Barbados, on Monday, 25 April 1994 at 3 p.m.

2. Election of the President

Rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference (A/CONF.167/2) provides that the Conference shall elect a President from among the representatives of participating States. Rule 44 provides that all elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless the Conference decides to proceed without taking a ballot when there is an agreed candidate or State.

3. Adoption of the rules of procedure

The provisional rules of procedure (A/CONF.167/2) were endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/193 of 21 December 1993. The Assembly decided to transmit the provisional rules of procedure to the Conference for adoption.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the provisional rules of procedure (A/CONF.167/2).

4. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda set out in the present document was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/193. By the same resolution, the Assembly decided to transmit the provisional agenda to the Conference for adoption.

5. Election of officers other than the President

Under rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Conference shall elect, in addition to the President, nine Vice-Presidents plus an ex officio Vice-President from the host country, a Rapporteur-General, and a Chairman for the Main Committee established in accordance with rule 46. Those officials shall be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

6. Organization of work, including establishment of the Main Committee of the Conference

In its resolution 48/193, the General Assembly decided that the Conference should take place from 25 April to 6 May 1994, with the pre-Conference consultations to take place on 24 April 1994.

Rule 46 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that the Conference may establish a Main Committee, as required, which may, subject to the decision of the Plenary of the Conference (rule 48), set up subcommittees or working groups. Under rule 48, the Conference may establish, in addition to the Main Committee, such committees and working groups as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions. Subject to the decision of the Plenary of the Conference, the Main Committee may set up subcommittees and working groups. According to rule 49, the members of the committees and working groups of the Conference shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Conference, unless the Conference decides otherwise. Under the same rule, members of the subcommittees and working groups of committees shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Committee in question, subject to the approval of that Committee, unless the Committee decides otherwise.

The provisional rules of procedure also provide for the appointment of a Credentials Committee (rule 4) and a General Committee (rule 11).

A note by the Secretariat on organizational and procedural matters will be before the Conference for consideration. It will include a proposed timetable for the work of the Conference. The pre-Conference consultations, to take place on 24 April, are expected to make recommendations to the Conference on the basis of the note by the Secretariat.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on organizational and procedural matters (A/CONF.167/3).

7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:

(a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

Rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that a Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference and that its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-eighth session. At that session, the Credentials Committee consisted of the representatives of the following States: Austria, Bahamas, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Mauritius, Russian Federation, Thailand and United States of America.

(b) Report of the Credentials Committee

In accordance with rule 4, the Credentials Committee shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

8. General debate

The Plenary of the Conference will hold a general debate between 26 April and 2 May 1994. The list of speakers for the general debate will be closed at 6 p.m. on 28 April 1994.

9. Consideration of plans and programmes to support the sustainable development of small island developing States and the utilization of their marine and coastal resources, which includes meeting essential human needs, maintaining biodiversity, and improving the quality of life for island people, as well as measures that will enable small island developing States to cope effectively, creatively and in a sustainable manner with environmental changes and to mitigate the impacts on and reduce the threats posed to marine and coastal resources

(a) Consideration of proposals for a Barbados declaration

At its resumed first session, the Preparatory Committee had before it a draft text entitled "The Barbados Declaration (Elements for discussion)", submitted by Barbados. In its Decision 18 of 11 March 1994, the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General to transmit the text containing proposals for a Barbados declaration to the Conference for its consideration and appropriate action.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the text containing proposals for a Barbados declaration (A/CONF.167/L.2).

(b) Consideration of the draft programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States

At its first session, the Preparatory Committee considered basic elements for an action programme on the sustainable development of small island developing States, based on the document entitled "Position of the Group of 77 and China on basic elements for an action programme for the sustainable development of small island developing States" (A/CONF.167/PC/L.5 and Add.1), submitted by Colombia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

At the same session, the representative of Vanuatu (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States) submitted a revised text of the document submitted by the Group of 77 and China.

At the same session, in its decision 10, the Preparatory Committee decided to request the Rapporteur, with the assistance of the Secretariat, to prepare a

revised, integrated and comprehensive working text, based on the revised text submitted by the Group of 77 and China, which would take into account the comments and proposals made by delegations.

At its resumed first session, the Preparatory Committee considered a draft programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States based on the position of the Group of 77 and China, which incorporated amendments proposed by delegations and corrections submitted in writing to the Secretariat.

In its decision 19 of 11 March 1994, the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General to transmit the draft programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States, as amended during the resumed first session of the Preparatory Committee, to the Conference for its consideration and appropriate action.

Also at its resumed first session, the Preparatory Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on current donor activities in support of sustainable development of small island developing States (A/CONF.167/PC/13 and Add.1). In its decision 20, the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General to transmit a revised version of the report to the Conference for its consideration and appropriate action.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on current donor activities in support of sustainable development of small island developing States (A/CONF.167/4).

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the draft programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States (A/CONF.167/PC/L.1).

10. Adoption of the report of the Conference

In paragraph 11 of its resolution 48/193, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-ninth session under the sub-item entitled "Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States", the report of the Global Conference. The draft of the report will be prepared by the Rapporteur-General of the Conference and presented to the Conference for its approval.

UNITED NATIONS

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Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Bridgetown, Barbados
25 April-6 May 1994

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23 March 1994

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Provisional rules of procedure

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference

1. At its organizational session, the Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, in its decision 3, 1/ decided to recommend to the Conference the adoption of the provisional rules of procedure set out in the annex to that decision. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 48/193 of 21 December 1993, the General Assembly endorsed that decision of the Preparatory Committee.

2. At its resumed first session, held from 7 to 11 March 1994, the Preparatory Committee decided to recommend to the Conference an amendment to rule 6 of the draft rules of procedure of the Conference. The text of that amendment is contained in the present document.

3. The provisional rules of procedure of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States are herewith transmitted to the Conference.

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* A/CONF.167/1.

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 36 (A/48/36), part one, chap. VI.

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

I. REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Composition of delegations

Rule 1

The delegation of each State participating in the Conference shall consist of a head of delegation and such other representatives, alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Alternates and advisers

Rule 2

The head of delegation may designate an alternate representative or an adviser to act as a representative.

Submission of credentials

Rule 3

The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of the Conference, if possible not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Credentials Committee

Rule 4

A Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-eighth session. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

Provisional participation in the Conference

Rule 5

Pending a decision of the Conference upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the Conference.

II. OFFICERS

Elections

Rule 6

The Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: a President, nine Vice-Presidents plus an ex officio Vice-President from the host country, a Rapporteur-General, and a Chairman for the Main Committee established in accordance with rule 46. These officials shall be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

General powers of the President

Rule 7

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the President shall preside at the plenary meetings of the Conference, declare the opening and closing of each meeting, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order thereat. The President may propose to the Conference the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on a question, the adjournment or closure of the debate and the suspension or the adjournment of a meeting.

2. The President, in the exercise of his function, remains under the authority of the Conference.

Acting President

Rule 8

1. If the President is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, he shall designate one of the Vice-Presidents to take his place.

2. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Replacement of the President

Rule 9

If the President is unable to perform his functions, a new President shall be elected.

Voting rights of the President

Rule 10

The President, or a Vice-President acting as President, shall not vote in the Conference, but may appoint another member of his delegation to vote in his place.

III. GENERAL COMMITTEE

Composition

Rule 11

The President, the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and the Chairman of the Main Committee shall constitute the General Committee. The President, or in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents designated by him, shall serve as Chairman of the General Committee. The Chairman of the Credentials Committee and other committees established by the Conference in accordance with rule 48 may participate, without the right to vote, in the General Committee.

Substitute members

Rule 12

If the President or a Vice-President of the Conference is to be absent during a meeting of the General Committee, he may designate a member of his delegation to sit and vote in the Committee. In case of absence, the Chairman of the Main Committee shall designate the Vice-Chairman of that Committee as his substitute. When serving on the General Committee, a Vice-Chairman of the Main Committee shall not have the right to vote if he is of the same delegation as another member of the General Committee.

Functions

Rule 13

The General Committee shall assist the President in the general conduct of the business of the Conference and, subject to the decisions of the Conference, shall ensure the coordination of its work.

IV. SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE

Duties of the Secretary-General

Rule 14

1. The Secretary-General shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference and its subsidiary organs.

2. The Secretary-General may designate a member of the secretariat to act in his place at those meetings.

3. The Secretary-General shall direct the staff required by the Conference.

Duties of the secretariat

Rule 15

The secretariat of the Conference shall, in accordance with these rules:

(a) Interpret speeches made at meetings;

(b) Receive, translate, reproduce and circulate the documents of the Conference;

(c) Publish and circulate the official documents of the Conference;

(d) Prepare and circulate records of public meetings;

(e) Make and arrange for the keeping of sound recordings;

(f) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the Conference in the archives of the United Nations;

(g) Generally perform all other work that the Conference may require.

Statements by the secretariat

Rule 16

The Secretary-General, or any member of the secretariat designated by the Secretary-General for that purpose, may, at any time, make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

V. OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

Temporary President

Rule 17

The Secretary-General shall open the first meeting of the Conference and preside until the Conference has elected its President.

Decisions concerning organization

Rule 18

The Conference shall at its first meeting:

(a) Adopt its rules of procedure;

(b) Elect its officers and constitute its subsidiary organs;

(c) Adopt its agenda, the draft of which shall, until such adoption, be the provisional agenda of the Conference;

(d) Decide on the organization of its work.

VI. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Quorum

Rule 19

The President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one third of the representatives of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

Speeches

Rule 20

1. No one may address the Conference without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rules 21, 22 and 25 to 27, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The secretariat shall be in charge of drawing up a list of speakers.

2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Conference and the President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

3. The Conference may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each participant may speak on any question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. In any event, with the consent of the Conference, the President shall limit each intervention on procedural matters to five minutes. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call him to order without delay.

Points of order

Rule 21

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with these rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Precedence

Rule 22

The Chairman or Rapporteur of the Main Committee, or the representative of a subcommittee or working group, may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by the body concerned.

Closing of the list of speakers

Rule 23

During the course of a debate, the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Conference, declare the list closed.

Right of reply

Rule 24

1. Notwithstanding rule 23, the President shall accord the right of reply to a representative of any State participating in the Conference who requests it. Any other representative may be granted the opportunity to make a reply.

2. The statements made under this rule shall normally be made at the end of the last meeting of the day, or at the conclusion of the consideration of the relevant item if that is sooner.

3. The representatives of a State may make no more than two statements under this rule at a given meeting on any item. The first shall be limited to five minutes and the second to three minutes; representatives shall in any event attempt to be as brief as possible.

Adjournment of debate

Rule 25

A representative may at any time move the adjournment of the debate on the question under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing the adjournment, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Closure of debate

Rule 26

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the question under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Suspension or adjournment of the meeting

Rule 27

Subject to rule 38, a representative may at any time move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted and they shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Order of motions

Rule 28

The motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

(a) To suspend the meeting;

(b) To adjourn the meeting;

(c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;

(d) To close the debate on the question under discussion.

Submission of proposals and substantive amendments

Rule 29

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General, who shall circulate copies to all delegations. Unless the Conference decides otherwise, substantive proposals shall be discussed or put to a decision no earlier than 24 hours after copies have been circulated in all languages of the Conference to all delegations. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, even though those amendments have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day.

Withdrawal of proposals and motions

Rule 30

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before a decision on it has been taken, provided that it has not been amended. A proposal or a motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Decisions on competence

Rule 31

Subject to rule 21, any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

Reconsideration of proposals

Rule 32

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered unless the Conference, by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing reconsideration, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

VII. DECISION-MAKING

General agreement

Rule 33

The Conference shall make its best endeavours to ensure that the work of the Conference is accomplished by general agreement.

Voting rights

Rule 34

Each State participating in the Conference shall have one vote.

Majority required

Rule 35

1. Subject to rule 33, decisions of the Conference and its subsidiary organs shall be taken in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and its committees, respectively.

2. Except as otherwise provided in these rules, decisions of the Conference on all matters of procedure shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

3. If the question arises whether a matter is one of procedure or of substance, the President of the Conference shall rule on the question. An appeal against this ruling shall be put to the vote immediately, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

4. If a vote is equally divided, the proposal or motion shall be regarded as rejected.

Meaning of the phrase "representatives present and voting"

Rule 36

For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "representatives present and voting" means representatives casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting shall be regarded as not voting.

Method of voting

Rule 37

1. Except as provided in rule 44, the Conference shall normally vote by show of hands, except that a representative may request a roll-call, which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the States participating in the Conference, beginning with the delegation whose name is drawn by lot by the President. The name of each State shall be called in all roll-calls, and its representative shall reply "yes", "no" or "abstention".

2. When the Conference votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call. A representative may request a recorded vote, which shall, unless a representative requests otherwise, be taken without calling out the names of the States participating in the Conference.

3. The vote of each State participating in a roll-call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in any record of or report on the meeting.

Conduct during voting

Rule 38

After the President has announced the commencement of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting, except on a point of order in connection with the process of voting.

Explanation of vote

Rule 39

Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanations of vote, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The representative of a State sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended.

Division of proposals

Rule 40

A representative may move that parts of a proposal be decided on separately. If a representative objects, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing the division. If the motion is carried, those parts of the proposal that are subsequently approved shall be put to the Conference for decision as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Amendments

Rule 41

A proposal is considered an amendment to another proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal. Unless specified otherwise, the word "proposal" in these rules shall be considered as including amendments.

Order of voting on amendments

Rule 42

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon.

Order of voting on proposals

Rule 43

1. If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Conference decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted. The Conference may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

2. Revised proposals shall be voted on in the order in which the original proposals were submitted, unless the revision substantially departs from the original proposal. In that case, the original proposal shall be considered as withdrawn and the revised proposal shall be treated as a new proposal.

3. A motion requiring that no decision be taken on a proposal shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

Elections

Rule 44

All elections shall be held by secret ballot unless, in the absence of any objection, the Conference decides to proceed without taking a ballot when there is an agreed candidate or State.

Rule 45

1. When one or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, in a number not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast and the largest number of votes shall be elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of places to be filled, additional ballots shall be held to fill the remaining places.

VIII. SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Main Committee

Rule 46

The Conference may establish a Main Committee as required which may set up subcommittees or working groups.

Representation on the Main Committee

Rule 47

Each State participating in the Conference may be represented by one representative on the Main Committee established by the Conference. It may assign to the Committee such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Other committees and working groups

Rule 48

1. In addition to the Main Committee referred to above, the Conference may establish such committees and working groups as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

2. Subject to the decision of the plenary of the Conference, the Main Committee may set up subcommittees and working groups.

Rule 49

1. The members of the committees and working groups of the Conference, referred to in rule 48, paragraph 1, shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Conference, unless the Conference decides otherwise.

2. Members of the subcommittees and working groups of committees shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Committee in question, subject to the approval of that Committee, unless the Committee decides otherwise.

Officers

Rule 50

Except as otherwise provided in rule 6, each committee, subcommittee and working group shall elect its own officers.

Quorum

Rule 51

1. The Chairman of the Main Committee may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one quarter of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of

a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

2. A majority of the representatives of the General or Credentials Committees or of any committee, subcommittee or working group shall constitute a quorum.

Officers, conduct of business and voting

Rule 52

Rules 6 to 10 and 20 to 45 above shall be applicable, mutatis mutandis, to the proceedings of committees, subcommittees and working groups, except that:

(a) The Chairmen of the General and Credentials Committees and the chairmen of the committees, subcommittees and working groups may exercise the right to vote;

(b) Decisions of committees, subcommittees and working groups shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting, except that the reconsideration of a proposal or an amendment shall require the majority established by rule 32.

IX. LANGUAGES AND RECORDS

Languages of the Conference

Rule 53

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the languages of the Conference.

Interpretation

Rule 54

1. Speeches made in a language of the Conference shall be interpreted into the other such languages.

2. A representative may speak in a language other than a language of the Conference if the delegation concerned provides for interpretation into one such language.

Languages of official documents

Rule 55

Official documents of the Conference shall be made available in the languages of the Conference.

Sound recordings of meetings

Rule 56

Sound recordings of meetings of the Conference and of the Main Committee shall be made and kept in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference or the Main Committee concerned, no such recordings shall be made of the meetings of any working group thereof.

X. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

General principles

Rule 57

The plenary meetings of the Conference and the meetings of any committee shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise. All decisions taken by the plenary of the Conference at a private meeting shall be announced at an early public meeting of the plenary.

Rule 58

As a general rule, meetings of the General Committee, subcommittees or working groups shall be held in private.

Communiqués on private meetings

Rule 59

At the close of a private meeting, the presiding officer of the organ concerned may issue a communiqué through the Secretary-General of the Conference.

XI. OTHER PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS

Representatives of organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the capacity of observers in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices

Rule 60

Representatives designated by organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices have the right to participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group.

Representatives of national liberation movements

Rule 61

Representatives designated by national liberation movements invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on any matter of particular concern to those movements.

Representatives of the specialized agencies*

Rule 62

Representatives designated by the specialized agencies may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

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* For the purpose of these rules, the term "specialized agencies" includes the International Atomic Energy Agency and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Representatives of other intergovernmental organizations

Rule 63

Representatives designated by other intergovernmental organizations invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of regional and subregional organizations

Rule 64

Representatives designated by regional and subregional organizations invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Participation of associate members of regional commissions

Rule 65

Associate members of regional commissions invited to the Conference may participate as observers, outside the negotiating process and without the right to vote, in the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of interested United Nations organs

Rule 66

Representatives designated by interested organs of the United Nations may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations

Rule 67

1. Non-governmental organizations invited to the Conference may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Conference and the Main Committee.

2. Upon the invitation of the presiding officer of the conference body concerned and subject to the approval of that body, such observers may make oral statements on questions in which they have special competence.

Written statements

Rule 68

Written statements submitted by the designated representatives referred to in rules 60 to 66 shall be distributed by the secretariat to all delegations in the quantities and in the language in which the statements are made available to it at the site of the Conference, provided that a statement submitted on behalf of a non-governmental organization is related to the work of the Conference and is on a subject in which the organization has a special competence.

XII. SUSPENSION AND AMENDMENT OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Method of suspension

Rule 69

Any of these rules may be suspended by the Conference provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given, which may be waived if no representative objects. Any such suspension shall be limited to a specific and stated purpose and to a period required to achieve that purpose.

Method of amendment

Rule 70

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Conference taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, after the General Committee has reported on the proposed amendment.

UNITED NATIONS

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Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Bridgetown, Barbados
25 April-6 May 1994

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda**

ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Provisional rules of procedure

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its organizational session, the Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, in its decision 3, 1/ decided to recommend to the Conference the adoption of the provisional rules of procedure set out in the annex to that decision. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 48/193 of 21 December 1993, the General Assembly endorsed that decision of the Preparatory Committee.

2. At its resumed first session, held from 7 to 11 March 1994, the Preparatory Committee decided to recommend to the Conference an amendment to rule 6 of the draft rules of procedure of the Conference. The text of that amendment is contained in the present document.

3. The provisional rules of procedure of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States are herewith transmitted to the Conference.

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

** A/CONF.167/1.

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 36 (A/48/36), part one, chap. VI.

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

I. REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Composition of delegations

Rule 1

The delegation of each State participating in the Conference shall consist of a head of delegation and such other representatives, alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Alternates and advisers

Rule 2

The head of delegation may designate an alternate representative or an adviser to act as a representative.

Submission of credentials

Rule 3

The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of the Conference, if possible not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Credentials Committee

Rule 4

A Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-eighth session. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

Provisional participation in the Conference

Rule 5

Pending a decision of the Conference upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the Conference.

II. OFFICERS

Elections

Rule 6

The Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: a President, nine Vice-Presidents plus an ex officio Vice-President from the host country, a Rapporteur-General, and a Chairman for the Main Committee established in accordance with rule 46. These officials shall be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

General powers of the President

Rule 7

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the President shall preside at the plenary meetings of the Conference, declare the opening and closing of each meeting, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order thereat. The President may propose to the Conference the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on a question, the adjournment or closure of the debate and the suspension or the adjournment of a meeting.

2. The President, in the exercise of his function, remains under the authority of the Conference.

Acting President

Rule 8

1. If the President is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, he shall designate one of the Vice-Presidents to take his place.

2. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Replacement of the President

Rule 9

If the President is unable to perform his functions, a new President shall be elected.

Voting rights of the President

Rule 10

The President, or a Vice-President acting as President, shall not vote in the Conference, but may appoint another member of his delegation to vote in his place.

III. GENERAL COMMITTEE

Composition

Rule 11

The President, the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and the Chairman of the Main Committee shall constitute the General Committee. The President, or in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents designated by him, shall serve as Chairman of the General Committee. The Chairman of the Credentials Committee and other committees established by the Conference in accordance with rule 48 may participate, without the right to vote, in the General Committee.

Substitute members

Rule 12

If the President or a Vice-President of the Conference is to be absent during a meeting of the General Committee, he may designate a member of his delegation to sit and vote in the Committee. In case of absence, the Chairman of the Main Committee shall designate the Vice-Chairman of that Committee as his substitute. When serving on the General Committee, a Vice-Chairman of the Main Committee shall not have the right to vote if he is of the same delegation as another member of the General Committee.

Functions

Rule 13

The General Committee shall assist the President in the general conduct of the business of the Conference and, subject to the decisions of the Conference, shall ensure the coordination of its work.

IV. SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE

Duties of the Secretary-General

Rule 14

1. The Secretary-General shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference and its subsidiary organs.

2. The Secretary-General may designate a member of the secretariat to act in his place at those meetings.

3. The Secretary-General shall direct the staff required by the Conference.

Duties of the secretariat

Rule 15

The secretariat of the Conference shall, in accordance with these rules:

(a) Interpret speeches made at meetings;

(b) Receive, translate, reproduce and circulate the documents of the Conference;

(c) Publish and circulate the official documents of the Conference;

(d) Prepare and circulate records of public meetings;

(e) Make and arrange for the keeping of sound recordings;

(f) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the Conference in the archives of the United Nations;

(g) Generally perform all other work that the Conference may require.

Statements by the secretariat

Rule 16

The Secretary-General, or any member of the secretariat designated by the Secretary-General for that purpose, may, at any time, make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

V. OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

Temporary President

Rule 17

The Secretary-General shall open the first meeting of the Conference and preside until the Conference has elected its President.

Decisions concerning organization

Rule 18

The Conference shall at its first meeting:

(a) Adopt its rules of procedure;

(b) Elect its officers and constitute its subsidiary organs;

(c) Adopt its agenda, the draft of which shall, until such adoption, be the provisional agenda of the Conference;

(d) Decide on the organization of its work.

VI. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Quorum

Rule 19

The President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one third of the representatives of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

Speeches

Rule 20

1. No one may address the Conference without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rules 21, 22 and 25 to 27, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The secretariat shall be in charge of drawing up a list of speakers.

2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Conference and the President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

3. The Conference may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each participant may speak on any question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. In any event, with the consent of the Conference, the President shall limit each intervention on procedural matters to five minutes. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call him to order without delay.

Points of order

Rule 21

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with these rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Precedence

Rule 22

The Chairman or Rapporteur of the Main Committee, or the representative of a subcommittee or working group, may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by the body concerned.

Closing of the list of speakers

Rule 23

During the course of a debate, the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Conference, declare the list closed.

Right of reply

Rule 24

1. Notwithstanding rule 23, the President shall accord the right of reply to a representative of any State participating in the Conference who requests it. Any other representative may be granted the opportunity to make a reply.

2. The statements made under this rule shall normally be made at the end of the last meeting of the day, or at the conclusion of the consideration of the relevant item if that is sooner.

3. The representatives of a State may make no more than two statements under this rule at a given meeting on any item. The first shall be limited to five minutes and the second to three minutes; representatives shall in any event attempt to be as brief as possible.

Adjournment of debate

Rule 25

A representative may at any time move the adjournment of the debate on the question under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing the adjournment, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Closure of debate

Rule 26

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the question under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Suspension or adjournment of the meeting

Rule 27

Subject to rule 38, a representative may at any time move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted and they shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Order of motions

Rule 28

The motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

(a) To suspend the meeting;

(b) To adjourn the meeting;

(c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;

(d) To close the debate on the question under discussion.

Submission of proposals and substantive amendments

Rule 29

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General, who shall circulate copies to all delegations. Unless the Conference decides otherwise, substantive proposals shall be discussed or put to a decision no earlier than 24 hours after copies have been circulated in all languages of the Conference to all delegations. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, even though those amendments have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day.

Withdrawal of proposals and motions

Rule 30

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before a decision on it has been taken, provided that it has not been amended. A proposal or a motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Decisions on competence

Rule 31

Subject to rule 21, any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

Reconsideration of proposals

Rule 32

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered unless the Conference, by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing reconsideration, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

VII. DECISION-MAKING

General agreement

Rule 33

The Conference shall make its best endeavours to ensure that the work of the Conference is accomplished by general agreement.

Voting rights

Rule 34

Each State participating in the Conference shall have one vote.

Majority required

Rule 35

1. Subject to rule 33, decisions of the Conference and its subsidiary organs shall be taken in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and its committees, respectively.

2. Except as otherwise provided in these rules, decisions of the Conference on all matters of procedure shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

3. If the question arises whether a matter is one of procedure or of substance, the President of the Conference shall rule on the question. An appeal against this ruling shall be put to the vote immediately, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

4. If a vote is equally divided, the proposal or motion shall be regarded as rejected.

Meaning of the phrase "representatives present and voting"

Rule 36

For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "representatives present and voting" means representatives casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting shall be regarded as not voting.

Method of voting

Rule 37

1. Except as provided in rule 44, the Conference shall normally vote by show of hands, except that a representative may request a roll-call, which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the States participating in the Conference, beginning with the delegation whose name is drawn by lot by the President. The name of each State shall be called in all roll-calls, and its representative shall reply "yes", "no" or "abstention".

2. When the Conference votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call. A representative may request a recorded vote, which shall, unless a representative requests otherwise, be taken without calling out the names of the States participating in the Conference.

3. The vote of each State participating in a roll-call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in any record of or report on the meeting.

Conduct during voting

Rule 38

After the President has announced the commencement of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting, except on a point of order in connection with the process of voting.

Explanation of vote

Rule 39

Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanations of vote, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The representative of a State sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended.

Division of proposals

Rule 40

A representative may move that parts of a proposal be decided on separately. If a representative objects, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing the division. If the motion is carried, those parts of the proposal that are subsequently approved shall be put to the Conference for decision as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Amendments

Rule 41

A proposal is considered an amendment to another proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal. Unless specified otherwise, the word "proposal" in these rules shall be considered as including amendments.

Order of voting on amendments

Rule 42

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon.

Order of voting on proposals

Rule 43

1. If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Conference decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted. The Conference may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

2. Revised proposals shall be voted on in the order in which the original proposals were submitted, unless the revision substantially departs from the original proposal. In that case, the original proposal shall be considered as withdrawn and the revised proposal shall be treated as a new proposal.

3. A motion requiring that no decision be taken on a proposal shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

Elections

Rule 44

All elections shall be held by secret ballot unless, in the absence of any objection, the Conference decides to proceed without taking a ballot when there is an agreed candidate or State.

Rule 45

1. When one or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, in a number not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast and the largest number of votes shall be elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of places to be filled, additional ballots shall be held to fill the remaining places.

VIII. SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Main Committee

Rule 46

The Conference may establish a Main Committee as required which may set up subcommittees or working groups.

Representation on the Main Committee

Rule 47

Each State participating in the Conference may be represented by one representative on the Main Committee established by the Conference. It may assign to the Committee such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Other committees and working groups

Rule 48

1. In addition to the Main Committee referred to above, the Conference may establish such committees and working groups as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

2. Subject to the decision of the plenary of the Conference, the Main Committee may set up subcommittees and working groups.

Rule 49

1. The members of the committees and working groups of the Conference, referred to in rule 48, paragraph 1, shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Conference, unless the Conference decides otherwise.

2. Members of the subcommittees and working groups of committees shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Committee in question, subject to the approval of that Committee, unless the Committee decides otherwise.

Officers

Rule 50

Except as otherwise provided in rule 6, each committee, subcommittee and working group shall elect its own officers.

Quorum

Rule 51

1. The Chairman of the Main Committee may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one quarter of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of

a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

2. A majority of the representatives of the General or Credentials Committees or of any committee, subcommittee or working group shall constitute a quorum.

Officers, conduct of business and voting

Rule 52

Rules 6 to 10 and 20 to 45 above shall be applicable, mutatis mutandis, to the proceedings of committees, subcommittees and working groups, except that:

(a) The Chairmen of the General and Credentials Committees and the chairmen of the committees, subcommittees and working groups may exercise the right to vote;

(b) Decisions of committees, subcommittees and working groups shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting, except that the reconsideration of a proposal or an amendment shall require the majority established by rule 32.

IX. LANGUAGES AND RECORDS

Languages of the Conference

Rule 53

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the languages of the Conference.

Interpretation

Rule 54

1. Speeches made in a language of the Conference shall be interpreted into the other such languages.

2. A representative may speak in a language other than a language of the Conference if the delegation concerned provides for interpretation into one such language.

Languages of official documents

Rule 55

Official documents of the Conference shall be made available in the languages of the Conference.

Sound recordings of meetings

Rule 56

Sound recordings of meetings of the Conference and of the Main Committee shall be made and kept in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference or the Main Committee concerned, no such recordings shall be made of the meetings of any working group thereof.

X. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

General principles

Rule 57

The plenary meetings of the Conference and the meetings of any committee shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise. All decisions taken by the plenary of the Conference at a private meeting shall be announced at an early public meeting of the plenary.

Rule 58

As a general rule, meetings of the General Committee, subcommittees or working groups shall be held in private.

Communiqués on private meetings

Rule 59

At the close of a private meeting, the presiding officer of the organ concerned may issue a communiqué through the Secretary-General of the Conference.

XI. OTHER PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS

Representatives of organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the capacity of observers in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices

Rule 60

Representatives designated by organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices have the right to participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group.

Representatives of national liberation movements

Rule 61

Representatives designated by national liberation movements invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on any matter of particular concern to those movements.

Representatives of the specialized agencies*

Rule 62

Representatives designated by the specialized agencies may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

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* For the purpose of these rules, the term "specialized agencies" includes the International Atomic Energy Agency and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Representatives of other intergovernmental organizations

Rule 63

Representatives designated by other intergovernmental organizations invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of regional and subregional organizations

Rule 64

Representatives designated by regional and subregional organizations invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Participation of associate members of regional commissions

Rule 65

Associate members of regional commissions invited to the Conference may participate as observers, outside the negotiating process and without the right to vote, in the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of interested United Nations organs

Rule 66

Representatives designated by interested organs of the United Nations may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations

Rule 67

1. Non-governmental organizations invited to the Conference may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Conference and the Main Committee.

2. Upon the invitation of the presiding officer of the conference body concerned and subject to the approval of that body, such observers may make oral statements on questions in which they have special competence.

Written statements

Rule 68

Written statements submitted by the designated representatives referred to in rules 60 to 66 shall be distributed by the secretariat to all delegations in the quantities and in the language in which the statements are made available to it at the site of the Conference, provided that a statement submitted on behalf of a non-governmental organization is related to the work of the Conference and is on a subject in which the organization has a special competence.

XII. SUSPENSION AND AMENDMENT OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Method of suspension

Rule 69

Any of these rules may be suspended by the Conference provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given, which may be waived if no representative objects. Any such suspension shall be limited to a specific and stated purpose and to a period required to achieve that purpose.

Method of amendment

Rule 70

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Conference taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, after the General Committee has reported on the proposed amendment.

UNITED NATIONS

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Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Bridgetown, Barbados
25 April-6 May 1994

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

ORGANIZATION OF WORK, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE

Note by the Secretariat

1. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 48/193 of 21 December 1993, the General Assembly, inter alia, endorsed decisions 3 and 13 of the Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States on the rules of procedure and the provisional agenda for the Conference, and decided to transmit them to the Conference for adoption. The proposals contained herein have been prepared on the basis of the above-mentioned resolution.

I. PRE-CONFERENCE CONSULTATIONS

2. In its resolution 48/193, the General Assembly decided that the Conference should take place from 25 April to 6 May 1994 in Barbados, with pre-Conference consultations to take place at the same venue on 24 April. The purpose of the consultations, which will be open to all participating States, is to reach final agreement on recommendations to be made on all procedural and organizational matters to be dealt with by the Conference at the opening meeting, including the election of officers, the composition of the General Committee, the distribution of posts in the General Committee among regional groups, the adoption of the rules of procedure, the adoption of the agenda and organization of work, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee and arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference. It is proposed that the pre-Conference consultations should be conducted under the chairmanship of the head of the delegation of the host country.

* A/CONF.167/1.

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

3. Rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure for the Conference (A/CONF.167/2) provides that:

> "The Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: a President, nine Vice-Presidents plus an ex officio Vice-President from the host country, a Rapporteur-General, and a Chairman for the Main Committee established in accordance with rule 46. These officials shall be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions."

4. Pursuant to rules 6 and 11, the Conference would thus have a General Committee composed of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and the Chairman of the Main Committee. In accordance with standard practice the Presidency of the Conference would go to the host country.

III. ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

5. The Conference will have before it the provisional rules of procedure which the General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of its resolution 48/193, decided to transmit to the Conference for adoption. The provisional rules of procedure as revised at the resumed first session of the Preparatory Committee, are contained in document A/CONF.167/2.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The provisional agenda for the Conference is contained in document A/CONF.167/1.

V. ORGANIZATION OF WORK, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Organization of work

7. The organization of work for the Conference will be dealt with at the pre-Conference consultations. The Conference will have before it a proposed timetable for the work of the Conference, in which it is being suggested that the organization of work for the Conference should be as follows:

(a) The Plenary would hold a general debate between 25 April and 2 May;

(b) The Main Committee would meet from 26 April to 4 May;

(c) The high-level segment of the Conference is to take place on 5 and 6 May.

B. Allocation of items

8. It is proposed that items 1 to 8 and 9 (a) and 10 of the provisional agenda be considered in plenary meeting, and that item 9 (b) be allocated to the Main Committee, which will submit a report to the Plenary upon the conclusion of its work.

C. General debate

9. The general debate will take place from the afternoon of 25 April to 2 May. No delegation will be allowed to speak more than once in the general debate. A time-limit of 12 minutes will be established for statements by representatives of Governments, 10 minutes for representatives of United Nations specialized agencies, organizations and programmes and intergovernmental organizations, and 7 minutes for all other statements.

D. Establishment of the Main Committee of the Conference

10. The Main Committee of the Conference will meet from 26 April to 4 May. Its Chairman will be elected by the Conference in accordance with the provisions of rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference. In accordance with the provisions of rule 50, the Main Committee will elect its own officers, with the exception of the Chairman. It is proposed that the Main Committee elect four Vice-Chairmen on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, one of whom would be designated to assume the additional functions of Rapporteur. It is recommended that agreement be reached on the slate of candidates for posts falling within the ambit of the Main Committee before the opening of the Conference, thus permitting elections by acclamation and dispensing with the requirements of a secret ballot.

E. Timetable for the work of the Conference

11. The proposed timetable for the work of the Conference is contained in the annex to the present note. It is understood that the Main Committee will adjust its organization of work as required.

F. Organization of meetings

12. The resources available to the Conference permit the holding of a maximum of two simultaneous meetings in the morning and two in the afternoon, with

interpretation facilities. Such meetings could include meetings of committees, subcommittees, working groups or informal consultations. In addition, provisions have been made for the holding of evening meetings, as required. Interpretation facilities can be provided to regional or interest-group meetings only when they are held in place of formal meetings.

13. In accordance with the provisions of rule 48 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Conference may establish such committees and working groups as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions. Subject to the decision of the Plenary of the Conference, the Main Committee may also set up subcommittees and working groups. It should be noted, however, that committees, subcommittees and working groups can be established only to the extent permitted by conference service facilities available at the Conference site.

14. Meetings shall normally be scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. In order to ensure the most efficient utilization of available resources, it is essential that all meetings start promptly at the scheduled times.

VI. CONCLUDING EVENTS (HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT) OF THE CONFERENCE

15. Upon the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee, the following arrangements have been made for the concluding events (High-level segment) of the Conference:

(a) The high-level segment should be open to participation at the head of State or Government or ministerial level. It should last for one-and-a-half days, from the morning of Thursday, 5 May, through the morning of Friday, 6 May. Thursday will be devoted to a debate on the theme "Forging partnerships for sustainable development". Statements in the debate during the high-level segment should be limited to seven minutes;

(b) It is the intention of the host country to organize a roundtable for participants in the high-level segment on the morning of 6 May, and the President of the Conference would be invited to report to the Conference on the results of the high-level segment and the roundtable in the form of a presidential summary prepared under his own authority.

VII. CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONFERENCE: APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

16. Rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that there shall be a Credentials Committee of nine members appointed at the beginning of the Conference and that its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-eighth session.

17. At the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, the Credentials Committee was composed of the following States: Austria, Bahamas, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Mauritius, Russian Federation, Thailand and United States of America.

VIII. REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

18. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, it is recommended that the report of the Conference consist of the decisions of the Conference, a brief account of the events leading to the convening of the Conference and the proceedings, and a repertorial account of the work of the Main Committee and of the action taken on its recommendations in plenary meetings.

19. As has also been the practice, it is recommended that each regional group be requested to designate, before the opening of the Conference, two persons to serve as friends of the Rapporteur-General and two persons to serve as friends of the rapporteur of the Main Committee, to assist those officials in preparing the draft report of the Conference.

Annex

PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Sunday, 24 April

a.m. and p.m.		Pre-Conference consultations

First week (25-29 April)

Plenary

Monday, 25 April

p.m.	Item 1	Opening of the Conference
	Item 2	Election of the President
	Item 3	Adoption of the rules of procedure
	Item 4	Adoption of the agenda
	Item 5	Election of officers other than the President
	Item 6	Organization of work, including establishment of the Main Committee of the Conference
	Item 7 a/	Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
		(a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

Tuesday, 26 April

a.m.	Item 8 b/	Opening of the general debate
	Item 9 (a)	Consideration of proposals for a Barbados declaration c/
p.m.	Item 8	General debate (continued)

Wednesday, 27 April

a.m. and p.m.	Item 8	General debate (continued)
6 p.m.	Closure of the list of speakers on item 8	

Thursday, 28 April		
a.m. and p.m.	Item 8	General debate (continued)
Friday, 29 April		
a.m. and p.m.	Item 8	General debate (continued)
Second week (2-6 May)		
Monday, 2 May		
a.m.	Item 8	General debate (continued)
p.m.	Item 8	General debate (conclusion)
Tuesday, 3 May		
a.m. and p.m.		To be determined
Wednesday, 4 May		
a.m. and p.m.		To be determined
Thursday, 5 May		
a.m. and p.m.	High-level segment	
Friday, 6 May		
a.m.	High-level segment	
Friday, 6 May		
p.m.	Item 9 (a)	Consideration of proposals for a Barbados declaration
	Item 10	Adoption of the report of the Conference

Closure of the Conference

Main Committee

First week (26-29 April)

Tuesday, 26 April

a.m.	Election of officers	
	Organization of work	
	Item 9 (b)	Consideration of plans and programmes to support the sustainable development of small island developing States and the utilization of their marine and coastal resources, which includes meeting essential human needs, maintaining biodiversity, and improving the quality of life for island people, as well as measures that will enable small island developing States to cope effectively, creatively and in a sustainable manner with environmental changes and to mitigate the impacts on and reduce the threats posed to marine and coastal resources: Consideration of the draft programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States
p.m.	Item 9 (b)	Continued

Wednesday, 27 April

a.m. and p.m.	Item 9 (b)	Continued

Thursday, 28 April

a.m. and p.m.	Item 9 (b)	Continued

Friday, 29 April

a.m. and p.m.	Item 9 (b)	Continued
6 p.m.	Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 9 (b)	

Second week (2-4 May)

Monday, 2 May

a.m. and p.m. Item 9 (b) Continued

Tuesday, 3 May

a.m. and p.m. Item 9 (b) Continued

Wednesday, 4 May

a.m. Item 9 (b) Conclusion

p.m. Action on all outstanding matters

Completion of the work of the Committee

Notes

a/ Item 7 (b), entitled "Report of the Credentials Committee" will be scheduled for consideration by the Plenary at a date to be determined.

b/ Beginning on Tuesday, 26 April and until Monday, 2 May, a segment of the morning plenary meeting will be devoted to presentations by special guests on specific case-studies.

c/ The Plenary of the Conference may wish to establish a working group to consider this sub-item.